

MEETING HELD ON 29th FEBRUARY 2024 AT BROMPTON RALPH VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30pm

Attendees: Councillors S Baker (Vice Chair), J Elliott (Chairman), S Merritt, C Mowat

Also in attendance: Somerset Council Councillor S Pugsley

P Bainbridge (Clerk)

Members of the Public: 2

Public Question Time: No questions

1. **Apologies Received and accepted:** Cllrs P Heard, D Holmes, A Sellick
Apologies Received: SC Cllr F Nicholson
2. **Declarations of interest:** None
3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting** - It was unanimously agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on the 18th of January 2024 are a true and correct record and were signed by the Chairman at the meeting.
4. **Planning**
 - Planning Applications Received for Comment**
 - a. **3/02/24/001** Erection of agricultural storage shed with formation of access to highway land to the west of Cordings Ball and Bowden Farm to the north, Brompton Ralph – no comment
 - b. **3/02/24/002** Variation of condition 6 of planning permission 3/02/23/010 to amend the wording in respect of the pre-commencement condition to apply to the installation of external lighting to the west elevation only and the information to be submitted for approval of details – no comment
 - Planning Applications Awaiting Decision**
 - c. **3/02/23/008** Application for Prior Approval for the creation of a wetland habitat with extension of outpipe from existing pond for formation of additional pond and 4 No. bunded scrapes within a fenced area with filling in of defective pond Middle Stone Farm, Brompton Ralph to Gandstone Cross, Brompton Ralph, TA4 2RT
 - d. **3/02/21/001** Erection of 1 No. agricultural workers dwelling and garage Sandpit Meadows, Brompton Ralph to Gandstone Cross, Brompton Ralph, TA4 2RT
5. **Finance**
 - a. **Bank Reconciliation** to 31st January 2024 showing an account balance of £11,189.32, less unrepresented cheques totalling £313.30 was checked against the bank statement and signed by Cllr Merritt.
 - b. **Payments Already Made** – HugoFox Website February @ £9.99 (+VAT) via Direct Debit
 - c. **Payments for Approval** – S Baker proposed and C Mowat seconded, and the following payments were unanimously approved, and the cheques signed at the meeting.
 - i. Clerk's wages March (including payments to HMRC PAYE) - £304.17 (includes approved pay increase for the year 2023/24)
 - ii. Clerk's wages April (including payments to HMRC PAYE) - £166.74
 - d. **Parish Council Risk Assessment** – a draft financial risk assessment had been circulated prior to the meeting and a discussion was held. Some minor alterations were suggested and made. S Merritt proposed and C Mowat seconded, and the financial risk assessment was adopted. A review will take place at the Annual Parish Council meeting in May.
6. **Brompton Ralph Village Hall** – no one was available at the meeting to provide a report from the Village Hall. Information had been supplied that the Village Hall would welcome a representative from the Parish Council on its Committee. A talk entitled "Under Somerset Skies" is to be given by Terry Evans on Wednesday 6th March at 7.30pm costing £5 to include tea/coffee and cake. There are plans for a D Day Celebration event on the 1st of June with supper, a talk and entertainment.

7. Matters Outstanding

- a. SALC Granting Funding – The working group notes circulated had outlined three possible proposals which included internet connectivity for the Village Hall, a project to improve the memorial garden and village green, and a recorded social history project of Brompton Ralph in 2024. After a discussion about which proposals were suitable to receive the available funding, S Baker proposed, and S Merritt seconded to support the Recorded Social History project which was unanimously approved. This would involve an exhibition and a printed record for publication. The Clerk pointed out that funding is limited and time specific. An application will be prepared for submission.
 - b. Grass Cutting – The main village green continues to be cut by a volunteer. Two quotes to cut 'The Triangle' had been obtained for approximately four cuts a year. S Baker proposed and S Merritt seconded to accept the quote of £25 (+VAT).
 - c. Exmoor LCN – The next meeting will be held on Thursday 7th of March at 7pm at Moorland Hall, Wheddon Cross. SC Cllr Pugsley reported that the plans to close the recycling centres will be discussed and Cllr Dixie Darch, Lead Member for Environment and Climate Change will be in attendance. Any plans for closure of sites will need to go to a public consultation. The meeting was also informed of the fact that the planned cuts in Highway Maintenance had been delayed. The Vice Chair and Cllr Merritt will attend.
 - d. Defibrillator Training Session – 14 people attended the training at Brompton Ralph Village Hall, which took place on 13th February and delivered by Wiveliscombe Community First Responders. The Chair reported that the training once again was extremely useful and interesting.
 - e. Roads and Traffic Issues – reports of residents assisting in keeping drains and gullies clear were received. Somerset Council's plans to cut maintenance for Highways have been delayed and grit bins will continue to be replenished, however it was not clear whether this also included the 'dumpy bags'. The work of the Highway Steward will cease but plans are being drawn up on costings to provide a new steward/lengthsman providing services which the parishes could buy into.
- 8. Somerset Councillor Reports** – Cllr Pugsley provided updates on matters as they arose through the meeting, including discussion of the possible closure of recycling centres, the need to consult with the public, and the planned cuts in highway maintenance which have been delayed.
- 9. Clerk's Report & Correspondence** – Williton Parish Council had sent an open letter to parish councils ahead of Somerset Council's budget meeting seeking support for its the threatened closure of Williton's Recycling site. A holding letter was sent to Cllr Revans, leader of Somerset Council, explaining that the parish council was aware of the letter but had been unable to consider it at short notice. The letter was acknowledged. The parish council felt that it was not necessary to submit further correspondence at this time as any plans to close recycling centres would go to public consultation. The Clerk attends online fortnightly Clerks' meetings outlining Somerset Council matters and has attended two training sessions provided by Scribe Accounts.
- 10. Councillors' Reports and Items for Future Agendas** – Items for next agenda to include SALC Grant Funding, D Day, and quotes for maintenance of the noticeboard.
- 11. Date of next meeting** - Thursday 23rd May 2024 at 7.30pm at Brompton Ralph Village Hall which will be the Annual Parish Council meeting. The meeting will be preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting at 7.00pm.

Chair Cllr J Elliott declared the meeting closed at 8.52pm.

Chair: Signed as a true and correct record

Date: